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4 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
5 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

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8 MARIA WONG MEREZ,

9 Plaintiff,

10 vs.

11 KILOLO KIJAKAZI, Acting Commissioner of  
Social Security,

12 Defendant.

2:21-cv-01771-VCF

**ORDER**

[Motion/Application for Leave to Proceed in  
forma pauperis (ECF No.1)]

13 Before the court is Plaintiff Maria Wong Merez’s Motion/Application to Proceed *In Forma*  
14 *Pauperis* (ECF No. 1).

15 **I. In Forma Pauperis Application**

16 Plaintiff asserts in her application to proceed *in forma pauperis* that she receives \$243/monthly in  
17 food stamps. She has no other source of income. *Id.* Accordingly, Plaintiff’s request to proceed *in forma*  
18 *pauperis* is granted pursuant to § 1915(a).

19 **II. Screening the Complaint**

20 Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must additionally screen a complaint  
21 pursuant to § 1915(e). Specifically, federal courts are given the authority to dismiss a case if the action is  
22 legally “frivolous or malicious,” fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary  
23 relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. § 1915(e)(2). “To survive a motion to dismiss,  
24 a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is  
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1 plausible on its face.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009) (internal quotations and citation  
2 omitted).

3 In considering whether the plaintiff has stated a claim upon which relief can be granted, all material  
4 allegations in the complaint are accepted as true and are to be construed in the light most favorable to the  
5 plaintiff. *Russell v. Landrieu*, 621 F.2d 1037, 1039 (9th Cir. 1980). When a court dismisses a complaint  
6 under § 1915(e), the plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with directions as to curing  
7 its deficiencies, unless it is clear from the face of the complaint that the deficiencies could not be cured by  
8 amendment. *See Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995) (citation omitted).

#### 9 A. Plaintiff’s Complaint

10 Plaintiff’s complaint arises from an unfavorable decision by the Commissioner of Social Security  
11 Administration (hereinafter “Commissioner”). (ECF NO. 1-1). Plaintiff asserts that she is “disabled as  
12 that term is defined in the Social Security Act.” *Id.* The Commissioner denied his application for lack of  
13 disability. *Id.* Plaintiff has appealed the decision of the Commissioner to this court, and requests that  
14 this court reverse that decision, or in the alternative, remand this matter for a new hearing... *Id.*

15 Plaintiff may appeal to this court the Commissioner’s denial of his application for either Disability  
16 Insurance Benefits or Supplemental Security Income under Titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act,  
17 respectively. *See* 42 U.S.C. §§ 401-433, 1381-82c. This Court has jurisdiction over the matter. *Id.*  
18 Construing plaintiff’s allegations in light most favorable to plaintiff, the court finds that plaintiff has  
19 asserted a claim upon which relief can be granted. *See Russell*, 621 F.2d at 1039.

20 Accordingly, and for good cause shown,

21 IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff’s Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1) is  
22 GRANTED.

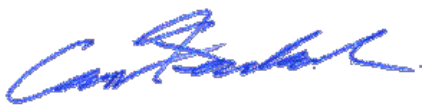
1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Plaintiff is permitted to maintain the action to conclusion  
2 without the necessity of prepayment of any additional fees, costs, or security. This order granting *in forma*  
3 *pauperis* status does not extend to the issuance of subpoenas at government expense.

4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court file the Complaint (ECF No. 1-1) and  
5 serve the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration by sending a copy of the summons and  
6 Complaint (ECF NO. 1-1) by certified mail to: (1) the Attorney General of the United States, Department  
7 of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 4400, Washington, D.C. 20530; and (3) Office of the  
8 Regional Chief Counsel, Region IX, Social Security Administration, 160 Spear St., Suite 899, San  
9 Francisco, CA 94105-1545.

10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court issue summons to the United States Attorney  
11 for the District of Nevada and deliver the summons and Complaint (ECF NO. 1-1) to the U.S. Marshal for  
12 service.

13 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that from this point forward, Plaintiff must serve upon defendant, or  
14 his attorney if he has retained one, a copy of every pleading, motion, or other document submitted for  
15 consideration by the court. Plaintiff must include with the original paper submitted for filing a certificate  
16 stating the date that a true and correct copy of the document was mailed to the defendants or their counsel.  
17 The court may disregard any paper received by a district judge, magistrate judge, or the Clerk which fails  
18 to include a certificate of service.

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20 DATED this 30th day of September, 2021.

  
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CAM FERENBACH  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE